

## **DRAFT Goals and Objectives Statement for a proposed National Marine Sanctuary in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands<sup>1</sup> Version 17**

### **Vision**

That the vast coral reefs, marine resources and ecosystems of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands -- unique in the world -- remain intact, healthy, diverse, and abundant forever.

### **Mission**

Carry out coordinated and integrated management to ensure strong and long-term protection of the marine ecosystems, continuation of Native Hawaiian cultural practices, and preservation of historical resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

### **Management Principles**

The sanctuary shall be managed in a manner that:

1. Is consistent with the Vision and Mission;
2. Recognizes that the resources of the NWHI are held in public trust;
3. Honors the significance of the region for Native Hawaiians;
4. Utilizes the precautionary principle with biological, cultural, and historic resource protection and integrity favored when there is a lack of information regarding the potential impacts of any activity;
5. Coordinates with federal, state, and local governments, Native Hawaiians, and appropriate organizations;
6. Carries out appropriate and effective enforcement and surveillance;
7. Incorporates best practices, available science, traditional knowledge, and innovative management techniques in order to have a comprehensive approach to both the ecological and social environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Source documents: National Marine Sanctuaries Act as amended by PL 106-513; Executive Order 13178 as amended by 13196 (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve); Draft Interagency MOU / MOA; Hawaii State Constitution; Executive Order 13022 (Administration of the Midway Islands); NWHICRER Council Charter; NWHICRER Draft Reserve Operation Plan; NWHI NMS Scoping comments; NWHICRER Public visioning sessions comment summary from July-August 2000; Pew Oceans Commission Summary Report 2003; Executive Order 13089 (Coral Reef Protection); Draft Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 60.5 of Title 13, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge.

## Management Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Protect, preserve, maintain, and restore the natural biological communities, habitats, populations, and ecological processes of the Sanctuary as a public trust for current and future generations.

Objective A: Develop a long-term, comprehensive resource protection plan that integrates best practices, available science, traditional knowledge, and innovative management techniques.

Objective B: Develop and maintain the necessary rules, regulations, penalty schedules, and prohibited activities to achieve the primary purpose of conservation and address the needs of the Sanctuary.

Objective C: Develop and implement surveillance and enforcement presence needed to ensure compliance with regulations.

Goal 2: Enhance public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the Sanctuary focusing on bringing the place to the people, not the people to the place.

Objective A: Plan and establish education programs and products utilizing an overarching Native Hawaiian culturally based themes and traditional approaches to learning.

Objective B: Utilize multiple systems of knowledge, histories and stories of the region in designing educational programs and products

Objective C: Promote the conservation of the NWHI as a model for understanding the ecosystems of the entire Hawaiian archipelago.

Objective D: Utilize new technologies and innovative techniques to build support and appreciation for the region, while minimizing use and impacts in the region.

Objective E: Coordinate all activities to minimize impacts to ecosystems, avoid redundant or duplicative efforts, and to achieve coordinated and efficient use of agency resources.

Goal 3: Facilitate Native Hawaiian cultural, subsistence, and religious practices that are consistent with the long-term conservation and protection of the region.

Objective A: Build capacity within the Sanctuary program to develop an ongoing relationship with the Native Hawaiian community and facilitate participation by this community in the management of the Sanctuary.

Objective B: Collect and document oral histories of traditional uses and practices in the NWHI.

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Objective C: Identify appropriate cultural, subsistence and religious practices and uses as knowledge about them continues to evolve, and enable these practices and uses to be carried out.

Objective D: Facilitate the use of culturally significant resources, subject to criteria established through consultation with the Native Hawaiian community.

Objective E: Work with partner agencies to address the issue of use of protected and endangered species (turtles, plants, seeds) or “parts” (e.g. whale bones, turtle shells, bird feathers and bones) for cultural purposes to the extent compatible with existing applicable federal and state law, and with the long-term conservation and protection of the region.

Objective F: Facilitate the perpetuation of traditional knowledge across generations through all cultural access activities and support the sharing of that knowledge through other educational means.

Objective G: Support cultural research activities by Native Hawaiians.

Goal 4: Support, promote, and coordinate appropriate research and long-term monitoring to improve management decision-making to the extent consistent with the long-term conservation and protection of the region.

Objective A: Identify, assess, prioritize, and authorize ecological, historic, cultural and socio-economic research and monitoring necessary for effective management of the region.

Objective B: Coordinate with regional and national agencies to make vessels and other resources available for conservation and research activities.

Objective C: Avoid redundant and duplicative research by collaborating and coordinating with jurisdictional partner agencies and universities.

Objective D: Develop the ability to quickly assess and respond to unexpected, rapid ecological changes that have occurred as a result of storm events, dramatic climate and temperature shifts and other occurrences.

Objective E: Cultural research activities proposed in the Sanctuary would be subject to criteria established through consultation with the Native Hawaiian community.

Objective F: Identify and develop strategies to make NWHI based research available and accessible to the public.

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Goal 5: Provide for comprehensive and coordinated conservation and management that recognizes and complements existing jurisdictional boundaries and management regimes.

Objective A: Provide leadership by developing and implementing inter-agency agreements and processes with regional partners that establish a means to operationalize coordinated and comprehensive management.

Objective B: Develop and implement specific regional approaches to address key cross-jurisdictional activities, such as education, research and monitoring, enforcement and access.

Objective C: Create a permit, notification, and tracking system for access and use that is compatible and coordinated with partner agencies.

Objective D: Coordinate all activities to minimize impacts to ecosystems, avoid redundant or duplicative efforts, and to achieve coordinated and efficient use of agency resources.

Goal 6: Consider and authorize uses only after considering how the ecosystem will be affected, and only if such uses do not diminish the natural character or biological or cultural integrity of any ecosystem of the region.

Objective A: Prohibit all uses, other than national defense activities, unless otherwise permitted.

Objective B: Develop a management system that continues to allow subsistence uses.

Objective C: Develop a marine zoning system that prescribes further limits on use to enhance ecosystem protection and ease of management and enforcement.

Objective D: Develop a permitting and tracking system that identifies, evaluates, and monitors activities and access in order to ensure consistency with the primary goals of resource protection while also enabling emergency response activities.

Objective E: Initiate the process to work with the appropriate domestic and international agencies to adopt a notification requirement for transiting non-military vessels and the designation of special maritime zones on nautical charts.

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Objective F: Prohibit the use of nets; long line gear; bottom trawls; poisons, chemicals, and intoxicants; explosives and electric charges; and scuba assisted spear fishing.

Objective G: Prohibit commercial crustacean harvest.

Objective H: Prohibit precious coral harvest.

Objective I: Prohibit the collection of coral, live rock, aquaria species, sponges, and live fish.

Objective J: Develop a management regime that allows current, existing commercial harvest for bottomfish and pelagic fishes by permitted bottomfishers with the following restrictions:

- a. There shall be no increase in the number of permits of any particular type of fishing (such as for bottomfishing) beyond the number of permits of that type in effect between December 4, 1999 and December 4, 2000, with the exception of the addition of two Native Hawaiian permits;
- b. The annual level of aggregate take under all permits of any particular type of fishing may not exceed the aggregate level of take under all permits of that type of fishing as follows:
- c. Bottomfishing—the annual aggregate level for each permitted bottomfisher shall be that permittee’s individual average taken over the 5 years between December 4, 1995 and December 4, 2000, provided that the Secretary, in furtherance of the principles of the reserve, may make a onetime reasonable increase to the total aggregate to allow for the use of two Native Hawaiian bottomfishing permits. The cap for each permitted bottomfisher shall be equal to the permit holder’s average catch over those years between December 4, 1995 and December 4, 2000, in which they were active. “Active” is defined as a year in which a vessel met minimum landing requirements applicable as of December 4, 2000. The cap for each the two Native Hawaiian permits shall be set at the level of the highest cap established for permitted bottomfishers;
- d. The type of fishing gear used by any permit holder may not be changed except with the permission of the Secretary;

Objective K: Develop a management regime that allows current, existing commercial harvest for pelagic fishes with the following restrictions: All other commercial fishing—the annual aggregate level shall be the permittee’s individual take between December 4, 1999 and December 4, 2000, as determined by the Secretary;

Objective L: Develop a management regime that allows current, existing recreational harvest for pelagic fishes with the following restrictions: All currently existing (preceding December 4, 2000) levels of recreational fishing (recreational fishing is fishing that does not involve the sale, trade or barter of the catch) effort, as determined by the Secretary and pursuant to regulations in effect on December 4, 2000, shall be capped (i.e., no increase of take levels or levels of fishing effort, species targeted, or change in gear types) throughout the Reserve. Recreational fishing is further restricted as provided in Reserve Preservation Areas.

Objective M: Develop a permit and tracking system for sportfishing uses.